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S/1997/495
26 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached letters addressed to me by the President of the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Pascal Lissouba, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, on the question of the deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville.

I should be grateful if you would be kind enough to bring these letters to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex I

[Original: French]

Letter dated 24 June 1997 from the President of the Congo addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to recall our conversation and, more particularly, the information which I gave you about the risks of destabilization facing my country, in the light of which I requested your assistance at Harare.

The Congo therefore awaits with interest and impatience any action that might be taken in response to the request by the International Mediation Committee, headed by President Omar Bongo, Head of State of Gabon - a request which I firmly support - for the deployment of an inter-African peacekeeping force and, in particular, for:

- the securing of polling stations during the presidential elections;

- the decommissioning of weapons, particularly the neutralization of heavy weapons.

I am counting on the Security Council to respond promptly to this request and wish to convey to you the thanks of the entire Congolese people and the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Pascal LISSOUBA

Annex II

[Original: English]

Letter dated 23 June 1997 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met this afternoon to consider the prevailing situation in the Republic of the Congo. The session especially focused on the need to maintain and consolidate the ceasefire in Brazzaville and to create conditions for a political solution to the crisis. In this respect, the Central Organ specifically considered the initiative of President Omar Bongo of the Republic of Gabon requesting the Security Council to authorize a speedy deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville.

I am sending you herewith a copy of the communiqué issued by the Central Organ at the end of its deliberations. As you would note, the Central Organ fully supported the request by President Bongo. In this connection, I wish to highlight especially the following paragraphs of the communiqué:

"Reiterated its appeal for the establishment and maintenance of a lasting ceasefire, and called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint;

"Fully supported the request by the President of Gabon on behalf of the International Mediation Committee for the Security Council to authorize the rapid deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville, and requested the Security Council to facilitate such a deployment without delay;

"Appealed to all African States, especially those with the relevant capability, to make available contingents which can serve as part of the proposed inter-African force, or provide logistical support for such a force;

"Called on the parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the International Mediation Committee and with the force by, inter alia, committing themselves to a ceasefire and to a political solution to the dispute;

"Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake urgent consultations within and outside Africa to ensure maximum support for the implementation of this initiative."

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of the present letter and the attached communiqué to the attention of the President and members of the Security Council. I would further appreciate it if you would have them circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM

Enclosure

Communiqué issued by the thirty-fourth ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at the ambassadorial level, held on 23 June 1997

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met at ambassadorial level, at Addis Ababa, on 23 June 1997 at 15.00 hours to examine the serious situation prevailing in the Republic of the Congo and the efforts deployed so far to resolve the crisis. The session was held under the chairmanship of Mr. T. A. G. Makombe, the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the OAU and representative of the current Chairman.

The Central Organ was extensively briefed by the Secretary-General on the outcome of the recent meeting of the International Mediation Committee and the communication sent by Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon, to the current Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General, as well as to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the situation in the Republic of the Congo, and, in particular, the request for the deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville. The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to OAU also apprised the session of the latest situation in his country.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ:

Reiterated its appeal for the establishment and maintenance of a lasting ceasefire, and called on the parties to exercise maximum restraint;

Reaffirmed its full support for the efforts being made by the International Mediation Committee under the leadership of President Omar Bongo of the Republic of Gabon;

Fully supported the request by the President of Gabon on behalf of the International Mediation Committee for the Security Council to authorize the rapid deployment of an inter-African force in Brazzaville, and requested the Security Council to facilitate such a deployment without delay;

Appealed to all African States, especially those with the relevant capability, to make available contingents which can serve as part of the proposed inter-African force, or provide logistical support for such a force;

Called on the parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the International Mediation Committee and with the force by, inter alia, committing themselves to a ceasefire and to a political solution to the dispute;

Requested the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake urgent consultations within and outside Africa to ensure maximum support for the implementation of this initiative;

Expressed deep appreciation to the humanitarian agencies for the work they are doing under extremely difficult circumstances, and appealed to the international community to extend urgent humanitarian assistance to all those in need;

Decided to remain seized of the crisis in the Republic of the Congo, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor very closely the developments in that country.

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LETTER DATED 27 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the upcoming debate in the Security Council concerning the restructuring of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). The United Nations presence in Croatia is mandated by the basic agreement (S/1995/951, annex), and Security Council resolutions 1037 (1996) of 15 January 1996 and 1079 (1996) of 15 November 1996 to last up to two years, ending on 15 January 1998.

As pointed out in the letter dated 13 June 1997 from my Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to you (S/1997/454), the Government of Croatia is of the view that the United Nations, in cooperation with the Croatian authorities, has successfully achieved the goals set out in the relevant documents, and can begin its progressive disengagement from the Danube region of Croatia. The successes of UNTAES mandate, reflected by the documents programme in particular, can now be maintained by the newly elected and constituted local authorities and monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In regard to the latter, I am pleased to inform you that the Permanent Council of OSCE has adopted a relevant decision. In its decision No. 176 of 26 June 1997 the Permanent Council called for the strengthening of the present OSCE mission in Croatia beginning in July 1997, with the view to expanding its monitoring responsibilities into the Danube region of Croatia once the United Nations mandate there terminates and the departure is completed on 15 January 1998 (see annex).

The new OSCE mandate in Croatia fully satisfies the long-term monitoring objective of the basic agreement and resolution 1079 (1996), and strengthens the ability of the United Nations to exit the region by 15 January 1998 consistent with the timetable envisioned by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council of 23 June (S/1997/487).

My Government believes that the Secretary-General's exit strategy can now be clearly reflected in an operational context in the upcoming resolution, especially in regard to the military component. The situation in the region

will also be strengthened if the Security Council gives support to the newly elected civilian bodies there, with a view to having the bodies assume their lawful responsibilities in full as quickly as possible. Transparency and accountability are two key elements for maintaining stability in the region.

I should like to reiterate that the Government of Croatia is fully committed to its obligations in respect of the Danube region, and will continue to cooperate with the international community in the consolidation of peace and stability there.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan SIMONOVIC
Ambassador
Permanent Represenative

Annex

Decision No. 176 adopted at the Permanent Council of the OSCE on 26 June 1997

The Permanent Council decides to:

- Pursue OSCE tasks in the Republic of Croatia on the basis of Permanent Council decision No. 112 of 18 April 1996, as amended by this decision;

- Reaffirm the availability of all OSCE institutions to assist in the development of democratic institutions, processes and mechanisms;

- Authorize the Mission:

  - To assist with and to monitor implementation of Croatian legislation and agreements and commitments entered into by the Croatian Government on:

    - Two-way return of all refugees and displaced persons and on protection of their rights, and

    - The protection of persons belonging to national minorities;

  - To make specific recommendations to the Croatian authorities and refer, as appropriate, urgent issues to the Permanent Council;

- Build up Mission personnel, starting July 1997, to a ceiling of 250 expatriates with a view to full deployment by 15 January 1998. The personnel will be deployed by decision of the Head of Mission;

- Extend the mandate of the reinforced OSCE Mission for a period until 31 December 1998. Prolongation and changes of mandate will be subject to a new decision by the Permanent Council.

The Permanent Council takes note of the agreement between the Croatian authorities and the Chairman-in-Office to consider this decision as having the effect of amending the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Government of Croatia and OSCE.

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27 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, we have the honour to enclose herewith a joint letter signed by His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and His Excellency Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the efforts of the two organizations to find a peaceful and just solution to the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Hussein A. HASSOUNA
Ambassador
Permanent Observer for the
League of Arab States to
United Nations

(Signed) Mr. Ibrahima SY
Ambassador
Permanent Observer for the
Organization of African Unity
to the United Nations

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Annex

Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the President of the Security Council

As a follow-up to the efforts being deployed individually and jointly by the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to find a peaceful and just solution to the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and Great Britain, and in conformity with the decision of the two organizations to coordinate both Arab and African efforts aimed at contributing to the process of finding a lasting solution to the dispute, we have the honour to inform you that the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity have, in this regard, agreed as follows:

FIRST: To call upon the Security Council to convene a special meeting in order to consider the following specific proposals, one of which could be agreed upon as a basis for a solution:

(i) Hold the trial of the two suspects in a third and neutral country to be determined by the Security Council;

(ii) Have the two suspects tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, in accordance with the Scottish Law;

(iii) Establishment of a special criminal tribunal at the ICJ headquarters in The Hague to try the two suspects.

SECOND: Pending the final and peaceful solution of the crisis and the adoption of one of the above-mentioned proposals, we urge the Security Council to undertake the following measures which, we believe, will go a long way in mitigating the severe impact of the air embargo, by exempting flights that may be run by Libyan authorities:

(i) Flights for humanitarian purposes of medical treatment and the importation of medicines;

(ii) Special flights to send material assistance from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to African countries;

(iii) Flights for religious purposes;

(iv) Flights related to participation in official missions.

Through this joint letter, which is a manifestation of our common concern and desire to find a speedy solution to this crisis, we request the Security Council to consider these proposals and undertake all measures with a view to reaching a peaceful and just solution in the near future.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM
Secretary-General of the
Organization of African Unity

(Signed) Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel MEGUID
Secretary-General of the
League of Arab States